

**2017 SUN Movement Global Gathering  
Executive Committee Meeting with UN Network for SUN  
9 November 2017, 07:30-08:30  
Summary Report**



### Participants

UN Network for SUN (UNN)	Executive Committee (ExCom)	SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)
Nicolas Bidault, UNN Tania Goossens, UNN Adelheid Onyango, WHO Juliane Friedrich, IFAD Diana Carter, FAO Fatiha Terki, WFP Christine Campeau, UNSCN	Shawn Baker, BMGF (Chair) Abdoulaye Ka, Senegal (Vice Chair) Francesco Branca, WHO Lawrence Haddad, GAIN Uma Koirala, CSA Nepal Lauren Landis, WFP Daysi de Marquez, El Salvador Tumaini Mikindo, CSA Tanzania Martha Newsome, Medical Teams Intl. Felix Phiri, Malawi Aslam Shaheen, Pakistan  <i>Absent:</i> Fokko Wientjes, DSM	Gerda Verburg, Coordinator Sergio Teixeira Marlen Schuepbach

### Agenda

1. Can the UN Network clarify the UN coordination mechanism at country level, and at global levels? What it means and how it works? And how do these '5 UN-organization networks' create best value-add for countries?
2. How can the UN ensure capacity-building support to countries is based on needs and demand driven, strengthens country ownership and increases impact at grass-root level?
3. What role can the UN country networks play in ensuring good data governance or stewardship, supporting convergence and transparency of data systems to track SDGs?
4. Can the UN country network convene one or two multi-stakeholder meetings a year for convergence, where or when necessary?

### Key take-aways

- UN Network working towards more convergence and synergy between UN entities and more effectiveness and accountability
- UN to communicate better at country level how existing nutrition-related structures come together
- Competing agendas of UN agencies are a challenge for Government Focal Points which should be addressed
- Discussion between Executive Committee and UNN considered useful and to be continued

## Action points

Item	Timing	Responsible
- Global UN Network to provide better communication to UN at country level on different nutrition initiatives and structures	tbd	UNN Secretariat
- SUN Coordinator to discuss with leadership of UN agencies: Competing agendas of agencies at country level; encouraging agency heads to send strong message to country offices in support of their engagement in UN Networks; stronger engagement of agency heads in nutrition (when needed)	tbd	SUN Coordinator
- For ExCom retreat: What factors are essential for good collaboration between UN entities, and how to contribute and support these	Retreat Jan. 2018	SMS
- For ExCom retreat: How can better collaboration between the networks at country level be fostered, in particular UNN-SDN?	Retreat Jan. 2018	SMS
- SMS to share notes of the meeting	Asap	SMS (Marlen)

## Notes

The Chair of the Executive Committee opened the meeting, welcoming this first opportunity for an exchange between the UN Network for SUN (UNN) and the Executive Committee.

Nicolas Bidault, Acting Global Coordinator of the UNN, offered an update on recent progress of the UN Network for SUN. UN Networks work together in supporting countries in implementing their national nutrition plans. The networks are working towards convergence and agency coherence. Ahead of the SUN Global Gathering, the UN Network held a full-day meeting in Abidjan with 100 participants. The UN will continue to support efforts to establish civil society alliances, business networks and parliamentarian networks at country level. The ambition is to do more joint programming and activities amongst UN organizations. Areas for increased convergence include: data, programming, collaboration with donors, capacity building. The retreat of the UN Network showed that at country level some confusion exists around the different nutrition initiatives and structures, about which better communication is needed from the global level.

Members of the Executive Committee asked how ExCom can help the UN Network for SUN.

Nicolas Bidault laid out some of the challenges UNN is facing: 1) Limited resources (financial and human resources); 2) support for SUN by in-country UN staff is often considered voluntary additional work on top of agency work; 3) variable engagement of heads of agencies; 4) competing agendas of UN entities; 5) financial segregation, inflexible funding; 6) difficulty to engage nutrition sensitive actors/agencies.

Regarding point 3), the SUN Coordinator offered to make use of her regular exchanges with agency heads, as needed.

Regarding how UNN is collaborating with other actors: UNN is trying to increase collaboration with various UN agencies, such as UNHCR, UNFPA, UNEP, GNC. When civil society alliances are well organized, it is easy for UNN to work with them, and when CSAs are not established, UNN assists to set

up generally. UN Networks at country level are encouraged to link with UN Country Teams and to bring nutrition regularly on UNCT agenda.

The Executive Committee proposes that the factors driving collaboration between UN agencies where it works well should be explored and disseminated. These might include personal relationships; working towards a common objective (UNDAF/HRP); senior level engagement (RC/EC supporting nutrition); availability of human resources; strong government leadership; and prioritization of nutrition by governments.

Regarding how to bring more investment into nutrition, such as GFF, and how the UN could provide joint technical assistance at country level: it was agreed that the multiplier effect of the UN on the ground is important, and that the UNN can create opportunities for agencies to come together to discuss challenges and find innovative solutions.